

the Frederick and Prince George's County holdings were roughly 400 acres each and had apparently been purchased before 1754. Between 1755 and his death, Tasker repatented three tracts in Baltimore County for a net loss of 290 acres, purchased 89 acres in Kent County and 1,327 acres in Prince George's County, and sold 550 acres in Calvert County, 200 acres in Frederick County, and 1,000 acres in Kent County. In 1760, as executor of his son's estate, Tasker took possession of the 2,177-acre plantation "Belair" in Prince George's County devised by **Samuel Ogle** (ca. 1694–1752) to his son **Benjamin Ogle** (1748/49–1809), which had been held in trust by the Taskers as executors of Samuel Ogle's will. Tasker received the rents and profits of the plantation until his death in exchange for £102.0.0 per annum paid to **Benjamin Ogle** (1748/49–1809). **WEALTH AT DEATH. DIED:** on June 19, 1768, in Annapolis, after an illness of about two weeks; buried in St. Anne's churchyard, Annapolis. **PERSONAL PROPERTY:** Tasker devised a total of £15,000 sterling to his heirs, but no accounting of his estate survives. His one-fifth share in the Baltimore Ironworks sold for £6,150 sterling in 1770. **LAND:** probably ca. 3,745 acres in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Prince George's, and Kent counties, plus at least 7 lots in Annapolis.

TASKER, BENJAMIN, JR. (1720/21–1760). **BORN:** on February 14, 1720/21, in Annapolis, Anne Arundel County; only son to survive infancy. **NATIVE:** third generation. **RESIDED:** in Annapolis; also at "Belair," Prince George's County, ca. 1754–1760. **FAMILY BACKGROUND. FATHER:** **Benjamin Tasker** (ca. 1690–1768), son of **Thomas Tasker** (?–1700). **MOTHER:** Ann (?–1775), daughter of **William Bladen** (1670–1718). **UNCLE:** **Thomas Bladen** (1698–1780). **AUNT:** Elizabeth Tasker (1686–1706/7), who married **Thomas Addison** (1679–1727). **BROTHERS:** William (1713–1715); Benjamin (1717–1717); Bladen (?–ca. 1721); Bladen (1722–1723); and Bladen (1730–died young). **SISTERS:** Ann (1723–1817), who married **Samuel Ogle** (ca. 1694–1752); Rebecca (1724–1822), who married **Daniel Dulany, Jr.** (1722–1797); Elizabeth (1726–1789); and Frances (?–1787). **FIRST COUSINS:** Rebecca Addison (1703–?), who married first, **James Bowles** (?–ca. 1727/28), and second, **George Plater** (1695–1755); Elinor Addison (1705–?), who married fourth, **Corbin Lee** (?–1774). **NEPHEWS:** **Benjamin Ogle** (1748/49–1809); **Benjamin Tasker Dulany** (1752–1816). **NIECES:** Mary Ogle (1746–1808), who married

John Ridout (1732–1797); Rebecca Lowndes (1757–1802), who married **Benjamin Stoddert** (ca. 1751–1813). **MARRIED never. CHILDREN:** Died without progeny. **PRIVATE CAREER. EDUCATION:** literate. **RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION:** probably Anglican. **SOCIAL STATUS AND ACTIVITIES:** Esq., by 1758; Hon., by 1760. **ADDITIONAL COMMENT:** Tasker traveled to England, March 1749–October 1751, probably because of poor health. He was active in thoroughbred horseracing and imported the famed mare Selima, which he raced successfully in Maryland and Virginia and retired to "Belair" as a brood mare in 1753. Her progeny were equally successful on the track. Tasker's obituary in the *Maryland Gazette* describes him as a man "charitable without ostentation, courteous without art, and in his friendships, steady and sincere . . . uninfluenced by any other motive than a sincere love of his country, he contributed on every occasion, his best endeavours to promote its best interests. . . ." **OCCUPATIONAL PROFILE:** officeholder; planter; partner in the Baltimore Ironworks Co. (having received a one-fifth share from his father); partner with Christopher Lowndes, a merchant, in the slave trade, 1752. From ca. 1754 until his death, Tasker operated the 2,177-acre plantation, "Belair," in Prince George's County as a trustee under the will of **Samuel Ogle** (ca. 1694–1752), although testimony in a later court case indicates that he regarded it as his own. Tasker imported breeding stock from England; he maintained livestock owned by himself and by Ogle. During his tenure at "Belair," Tasker made improvements to the mansion house and grounds, the mills, and the pasture land. He planted fruit trees and fenced in a deer park. On two acres of the garden he planted a vineyard and, in 1759, made wine with partial success. **PUBLIC CAREER. LEGISLATIVE SERVICE:** Lower House, Annapolis, 1742–1744 (elected to the 1st session of the 1742–1744 Assembly); Upper House, 1745, 1745/46–1748, 1749–1751 (did not attend), 1751–1754, 1754–1757, 1757–1758, 1758–1760 (died before the 3rd Convention of the 1758–1761 Assembly). **OTHER PROVINCIAL OFFICES:** naval officer, Annapolis, commissioned September 1742–December 1755 (resigned); riding surveyor of Bohemia and Sassafras, December 1743–death; Council, 1744/45 (qualified February 26, 1744/45)–death; surveyor general, Eastern Shore, October 1747–1755; delegate from Maryland to Albany Congress, 1754; deputy secretary of Maryland, commissioned December 1755 (sworn January 1, 1756)–death. **LOCAL OFFICES:** common